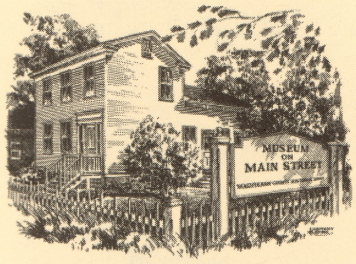

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FOUNDED 1857 • OCTOBER 2005

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JUDITH CHRISMAN • PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our Collection Grows...

In the September newsletter, we neglected to credit Amy Rosenberg for her article on the Conservation of a 19th Century Nightgown. Amy has been doing a wonderful job writing our 'Conservation' columns and we want to be sure she gets credit for it.

Cheyenne Indian jewelry. *By Judith Chrisman)*

Our collection continues to grow. Some recent donations include: Native American dresses, moccasins and jewelry and a 1904 bread mixer from **Jan Barney Newman**; a spoon, jewelry box and seal embosser from the **Anna Botsford Bach Home**; a velvet coat and a velvet cape worn to UM dances in the late 1920s from **Marie Panchuk**; clothing, a bustle, lace and ribbons, pillow covers and a hat which was made by Hattie Godfrey from **Trudy Johnson**; a collection of notebooks, papers and manuscripts pertaining to Washtenaw County collected by Olive Bender and donated by **Susan Burd**; items from Ann Arbor's Sesquicentennial from **Rachel Crary**; a medicine bottle and a lady's powder box left in our mailbox by an anonymous donor.

Last month we asked your opinion about changing the day of the annual meeting and potluck supper from the third Wednesday in May to the third Sunday in May. While we have had a few responses, we would like to hear from more of you. Also, any suggestions for a place to hold the meeting would be welcome. You can email us at wchs-500@ameritech.net, call us at 734-662-9092, or send a letter by regular mail.

President's House Through The Back Door

"Hello! Come right on in thru the back door and join me." So says Anne Duderstadt, wife of former University President James Duderstadt, as she invites you on a tour of the University of Michigan President's House.

Anne conducts her tour using original photos of the house and its surrounding gardens. And, being a gracious host, Anne provides short commentaries about the different university presidents who lived in the house and how each contributed to its current appearance.

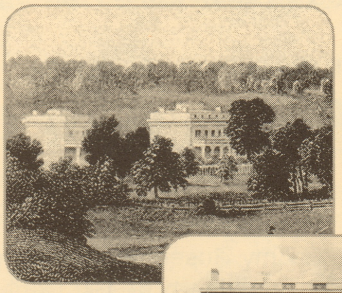
Students, academicians, dignitaries, celebrities, and the public have enjoyed the hospitability of each university leader at a significantly important historical house in our community. Now you too can enjoy that same friendly ambiance as you view and read the following pages with Anne Duderstadt as your guide.

Turn the page and come along.

The President's House

Anne Duderstadt

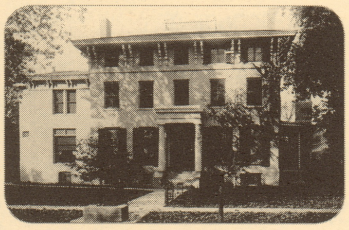
The third floor was added during Tappan's tenure



1840s - The Professors' Houses
In 1852 President Tappan moved into the west house on South University making it the President's House

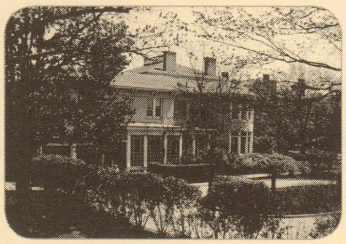
1864 -The Havens added the one story kitchen (left)

1870s & 1880s
"The Angell House"



1890s The Angells added the library and side porch

1920s The Burtons added the sun parlor and sleeping porch on the east side, enclosed the back porch, and added a garage with bedrooms above behind the kitchen



1940s The Ruthvens added the President's Study at the left rear of the house plant room between the sun parlor and the President's Study

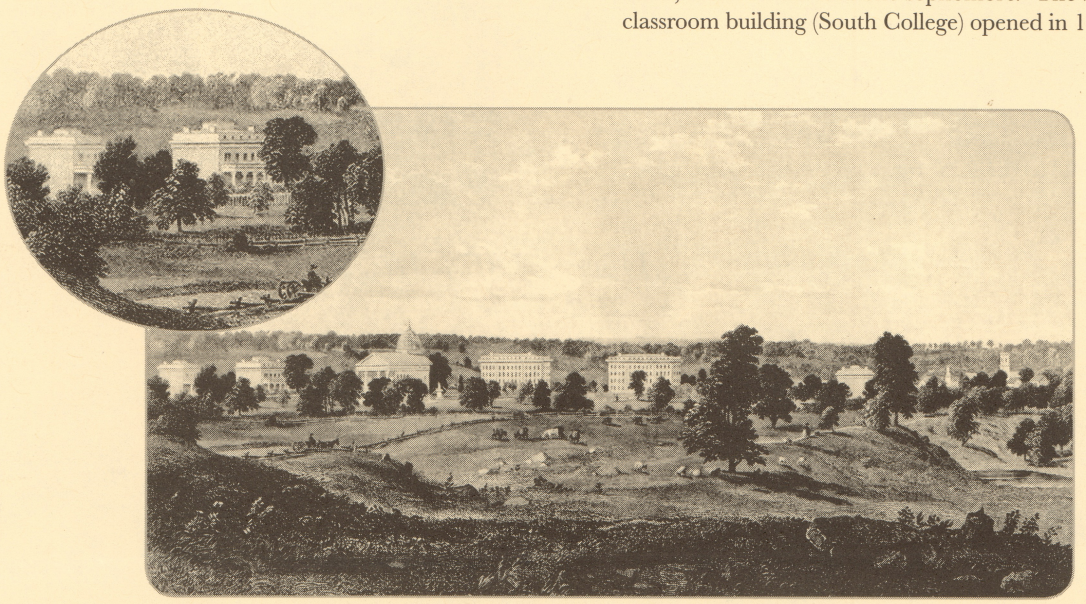
(Photographs from the Bentley and personal collection)

In 1837 the Ann Arbor Land Company offered 40 acres for the site of the University of Michigan. Ann Arbor had existed for 13 years and had a population of 2,000, the second largest town in Michigan. Ann Arbor had a courthouse, a jail, four churches, two newspapers, two banks, eight mills and factories, several stores, nine physicians, and eleven lawyers.

A modest building plan for the new campus called for four Professors' Houses and two buildings to serve as dormitories and classrooms.

Four identical Professors' Houses were completed in 1840. Two were located on North University and two on South University. The two story plan included a central hall with two rooms opening off each side. The same arrangement was repeated on the second floor. Each room had a fireplace. The houses had low-pitched tin roofs. Wood houses, cisterns, and barns were provided for each.

The University Main Building was completed in September of 1841, and the University opened its doors to a class of seven students, six freshmen and one sophomore. The second dormitory/classroom building (South College) opened in 1848-49.



President's House (Inset -right) - Cropsey Painting 1855

Henry Philip Tappan 1852-1863

From 1841 to 1852 a faculty committee governed the University. The new state constitution of 1850 required the Regents to elect a President. Henry Philip Tappan was chosen. Tappan was a well-known philosopher. He was eager to create "an American university deserving of the name," which would be a part of a public-school system.

During his tenure graduate studies were begun, scientific courses were added, and the Law Department was opened. Space to provide for this rapidly growing institution, whose enrollment tripled during the Tappan years, was obtained by eliminating dormitory quarters in the college buildings and converting them to classroom use and laboratories.

Henry Tappan

Julia Tappan

The photos below show the west Professors' House on North University. The house that the Tappans moved into on South University would have been identical.

House facing Diag

House facing Street

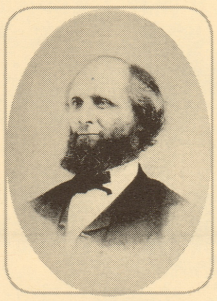
On June 25, 1863, the day before commencement, Henry Tappan was fired, and Erastus Haven was elected President. None of the Regents had been re-elected and this was their final act.

There was a great uproar in the community, with petitions and resolutions to have Tappan reinstated. This continued for several months. The Tappans left for Europe expecting to be called back. Haven arrived in Ann Arbor and chaired the August Regent's meeting. The new Board of Regents took office on January 1, 1864. They felt that it was ill advised to overturn a decision made by the previous board. Tappan was not reinstated.

On Tuesday, September 26, 1863, a public auction was held at the President's House to sell the Tappans' possessions. The auction flyer (in the Bentley) for the sale of the Tappans' household lists each room with its contents. Items on the third floor are included.

The Third Floor

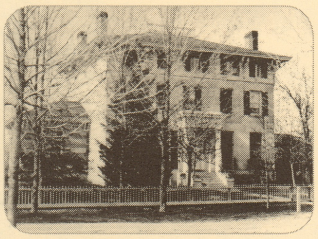
Erastus Otis Haven 1863-1869



Erastus Haven

Mary Francis Haven

Erastus Haven had been a professor from 1852-1856 and had many friends in Ann Arbor. He came back to a campus and community that was upset over the removal of Tappan. He was nevertheless able to win the support of Tappan's friends as well as his enemies. Haven resigned in 1869 to accept the presidency of Northwestern.



A kitchen was added to the west side of the house in 1864.

Henry Simmons Frieze 1869-1871

Henry Frieze, a professor of Latin Language and Literature, served as President pro tempore during the next two years while the Regents searched for a new President. Frieze had recommended James Angell for the position. During the long negotiation with Angell, Frieze was asked to accept the presidency, but declined. Frieze did not live in the President's House, preferring to emphasize the temporary nature of his position by remaining in his own home next door. Henry Frieze was the last professor to live in the east Professors' House on South University.

Dental School 1875 - 1891

In 1875 the College of Dental Surgery moved to the east Professors' House on South University. An addition was added on the east side. In 1891 the College moved to the Pavilion Hospital on North University. The Dental College had the distinction of occupying three of the four Professors' Houses.

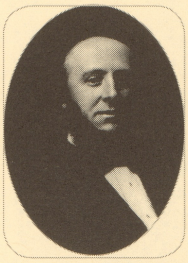
Henry Frieze

In 1891 the building was given to the Engineering Department. A third story was added, the entrance was moved to the west side, and the word "Engineering" was placed over the doorway. In 1922 the building was removed to make way for the Clements Library.

Engineering Building 1891

James Burrill Angell 1871-1909

James Angell was a student of Henry Frieze at a grammar school in Providence. Angell graduated from Brown with highest honors. He was a professor at Brown for seven years, editor of the Providence Journal during the Civil War , and President of the University of Vermont before coming to Michigan.



James Angell

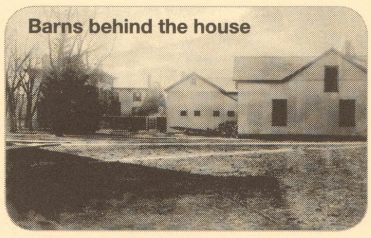
Sarah Angell

Sarah Caswell Angell spent most of her life in a college community. Her father was at Brown University for forty-five years as a professor and then president. Her mother died when she was eighteen, and she took charge of her father's household.

James Angell was courted for the Michigan presidency for two years. After the third offer he accepted the position, with the renovation of the President's House being a key factor in his decision. Many letters went back and forth to the Regents and Acting President Frieze.

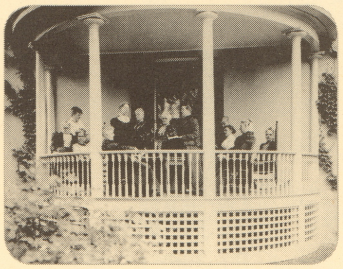
"It has occurred to me that I ought to ask you a little more definitely what you think could be done to the house. It seems to me to need absolutely, paper and paint, bath room with hot and cold water, and some arrangement for a dining room closet, and a furnace. My family has never lived in a house without the above named conveniences, which the house lacks, and composed as it is of persons from very advanced age to infancy. I should not feel willing to ask them to dispense with them, unless there were an absolute necessity. I am well aware that such a change would entail a pretty heavy outlay at first, but once done it would be done for all the future. The attic would hold a tank which could be filled from the roof."

These photos show the President's House after 1883. (The Library Tower completed in 1883 is visible.)
During the thirty-eight years of Angell's tenure, the President's House was referred to as "The Angell House".

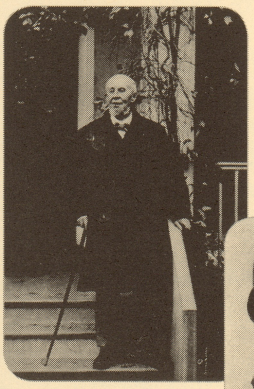


Barns behind the house

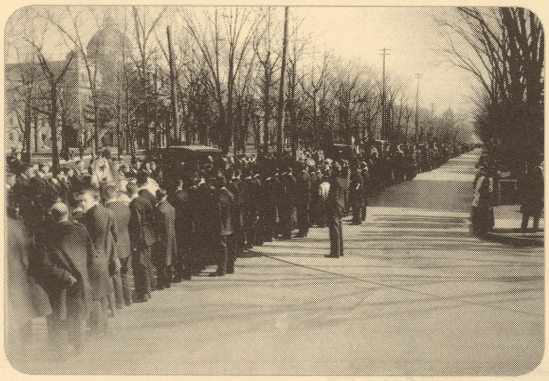
In 1891 the house was enlarged with the addition of a semi-circular library, with bedrooms above. The kitchen was placed behind the library, the four rooms on the first floor were made into two large rooms, and a side porch was added. Mrs. Angell is pictured below on the side porch and in the parlor with her Browning Group.



The Angell Family on the President's House Steps



Sam Baylis



Mrs. Angell died on December 17, 1903. In 1909 the Regents accepted President Angell's resignation. He was 80. President Angell continued living in his home until he died at the age of 88. He was cared for by Sam Baylis during his last years in the President's House.

James Angell died on April 1, 1916. Private services were held in the President's House. At the end of the service, the Glee Club, standing in the front yard sang "Laudes Atque Carmina". Students lined the streets to pay their last respects to their beloved president.

Harry Burns Hutchins 1910-1920

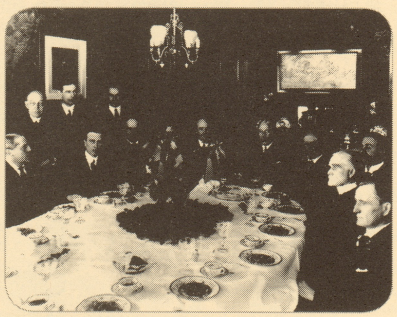
Harry Hutchins

Mary Louise Hutchins

Angell was succeeded by Harry Burns Hutchins, dean of the Law School since 1895, and long-time friend of Angell. He served as acting president from 1909-1910 and was named president in 1910. Hutchins remained in his own home on Monroe Street. He was the only Michigan president not to live in the President's House.

The President's House remained vacant after Angell's death, unused except as a Red Cross headquarters during World War I, and as temporary housing for Professor Hugh Cabot of the Medical School.

The Hutchins home on Monroe Street at Packard



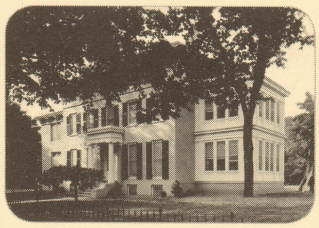
The Regents dine at President Hutchin's home

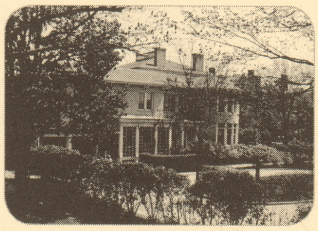
Marion Leroy Burton 1920-1925

Marion Burton succeeded Hutchins in 1920. Burton served as President of Smith College from 1910 to 1917, and the University of Minnesota from 1917 until 1920. After the war the University was in need of more buildings and faculty. Burton stated: *"A state university must accept happily the conclusion that it is destined to be large. I insist that excellence does not inhere in size."*

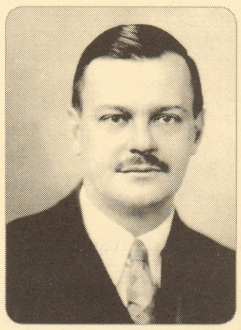
Marion and Nina Burton

The President's House was thoroughly renovated and a sun parlor with a sleeping porch above was added to the east side. The back porch was enclosed, and a garage with bedrooms overhead was added to the northwest side. Burton's tenure was cut short by his death in 1925 after a year long illness.





Clarence Cook Little 1925-1929



Clarence Cook Little

Katherine Little

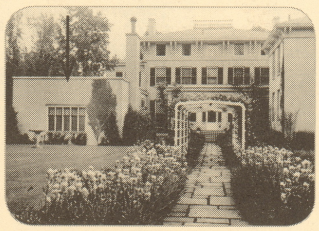
Clarence Cook (Pete) Little, came from the University of Maine where he had served as president for three years. He paid little attention to the President's House during his four-year tenure. Embroiled in almost continual controversy, Little resigned in 1929. His domestic life was also in shambles. In 1929 he divorced his wife on grounds of (12 years) desertion.

Little in the Dining Room

Alexander Grant Ruthven 1929-1951

Alexander Ruthven

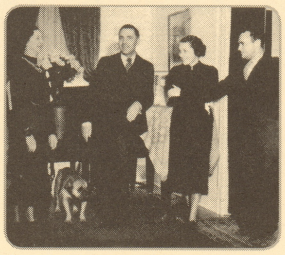
Alexander Ruthven came to Michigan in 1903 as a graduate student. He was a professor of zoology and director of the museum. Florence Ruthven was also a graduate. The Ruthven's displayed a sense of nostalgia in restoring some of the original furnishings to the President's House.

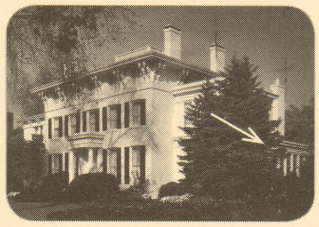


President's Study

Florence Ruthven

The Ruthvens were well known for their student teas. The house was filled with antiquities, and tours were given during the teas. The pictures (right) show them greeting guests. Eleanor (their dog) helped.





Plant Room

A private study was added in the northeast corner for the president, and a plant room between the sun parlor and the president's study for Mrs. Ruthven.

Harlan Henthorne Hatcher 1951-1967

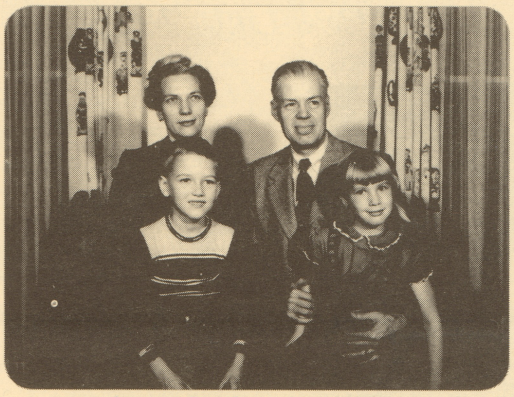
In 1951 after a thirty-two year tenure, Ruthven retired, and was succeeded by Harlan Hatcher. Hatcher came from Ohio State where he had received all of his degrees. He was a professor of English, and served as dean and vice president for faculty and curriculum.

Harlan Hatcher

Anne Hatcher

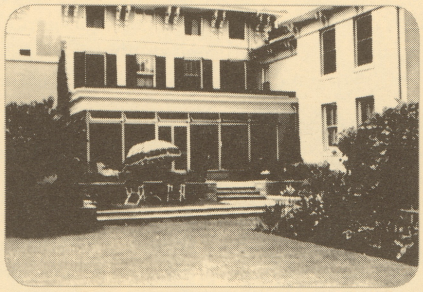
Shortly before the Hatchers arrival, the Inglis House estate had been given to the University to be used as a President's house, and the Hatchers were invited to live there. However, they chose to live in the President's House on campus.

The twenty two room house was sufficient for the Hatchers' needs, and they asked only that a glassed-in dining porch and stone terrace be added at the rear of the house. The interior of the house was extensively refurbished.



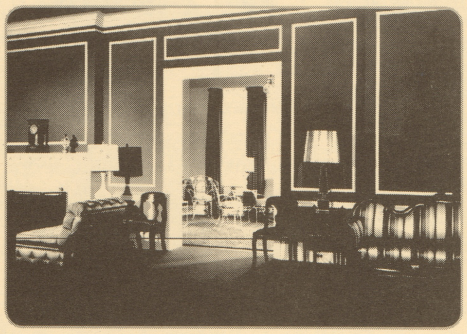
Anne & Harlan with children Robert and Anne

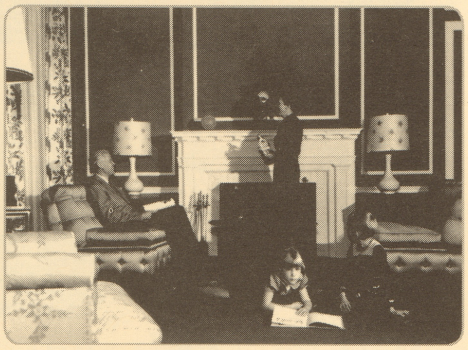
Dining Room



Glassed-in Porch and Stone Terrace

Library





Living Room

Robben Wright Fleming 1968-1979

The Flemings came to Michigan from the University of Wisconsin where Robben Fleming had served as chancellor.

Sally Fleming recalled in her oral history: "*When we first came to see the house, it was quite an experience, because the place was much larger than anything either of us had ever lived in and we were wondering how in the world we were ever going to make this huge place into a home.*"

Robben Fleming

Sally Fleming

The twelve-story Graduate Library was constructed right behind the President's House during the Fleming's tenure. About ten feet of the back yard was taken up for about three years while the large structural pieces were erected and the building took shape.

Harold Tafler Shapiro 1980-1987

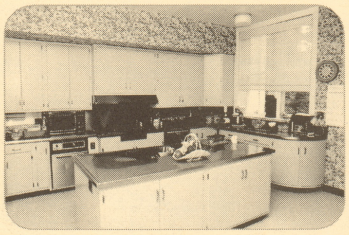
Harold Shapiro was a Professor of Economics. He served as vice president for academic affairs before becoming Michigan's 10th President. Vivian was a professor in the School of Social Work.

The President's House remained much the same through the Fleming and Shapiro tenures.

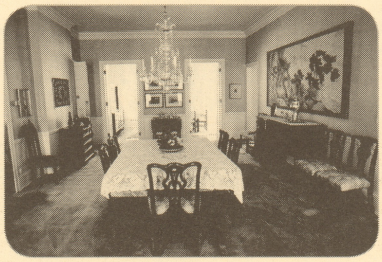
Harold Shapiro

Vivian Shapiro

Living Room



Kitchen



Dining Room

President's Study

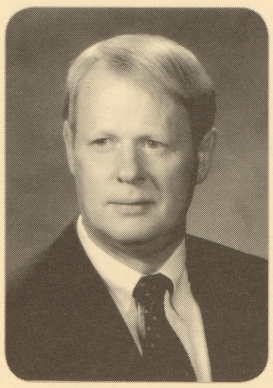
Sun Porch

Plant Room

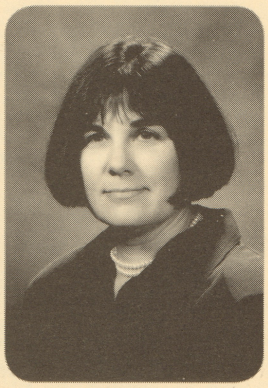
Library

James Johnson Duderstadts 1988-1996

The Duderstadts came to Ann Arbor in December of 1968. James Duderstadt was a professor of Nuclear Engineering. He served as dean of the College of Engineering from 1981 to 1986, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1986 until 1988.

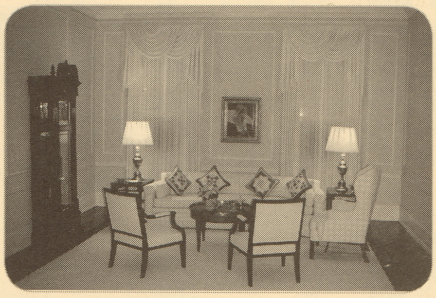


James Duderstadt



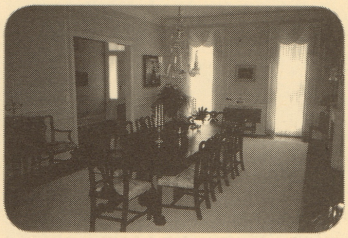
Anne Duderstadt

Major work on the President's House generally takes place between Presidents. In the summer of 1988, a fire protection and HVAC system were installed, along with handicapped access and restroom. There was a small budget to put the house back in order. Some of the earlier features of the house were restored, in particular, the hardwood floors.



Living Room

Living Room - A visit with the Dalai Lama



Dining Room

President's Study

Celebrating the University's 175th year
The Hatchers, The Shapiros, The Smiths, The Duderstadts & The Flemings

Sun Porch - Music Room

Plant Room

Library

ALICE CERNIGLIA

The Sewing Arts

Next exhibit at
WCHS Museum on Main Street
October 26, 2005 – January 18, 2006

What kind of needlework did your mother, grandmother, great-grand relations do? Did they enjoy it, hate it, have to do it, or look forward to the time they would spend with a needle.

Needlework is the thread that connects women through all the centuries of our history, no matter how much our lifestyles change. We have always shared that passion or, at times, the necessity. Needlework has been represented in and throughout history in some form or other. The likes and attitudes of the current time make way for changes and innovations in design and technique. Some die out but all or almost all have left their mark. This is the only way that women through the centuries can connect.

In the Sewing Arts exhibit, we will be displaying examples of needlework from our collection and using them to tell the history of needlework in America. Each piece tells a story of the customs and fashion of the time it was made. We have some history of the provenance of the pieces but it would be more informative if we could ask the makers the story behind their pieces. Let this be a lesson to the future. Don't forget to document your work. Sign or label your pieces and keep a journal—written or photographs. Tell your stories to your children so that we can continue to be united with our embellished past.

Announcements

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Sunday, October 23, 2005 • 1:30 P.M.
Education Center Auditorium • Parking Lot P, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus • 5305 Elliott Dr., Superior Township, Michigan

Amy Johnson Crow, CG will present **"Between the County and Federal Levels: Using State Government Records."** In place of the usual class, Amy will follow with **"Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker: Using Occupational Records."**

MANCHESTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Thursday, November 10, 2005 • 7:30 P.M.
Village Room, Village Hall, Manchester, Michigan

Joe Merkel, a local resident, will present **"Early Michigan Settlers and Products They Needed"** with an emphasis on bottles and glass.

SALINE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Saturday, December 10, 2005 • 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Sunday, December 11, 2005 • 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Admission by donation
Rentschler Farm, 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, Michigan

"Christmas on the Farm" The farmhouse will be decorated as it would have been during the Depression Era with good smells coming from the kitchen and examples of German desserts on the dining room table. Cookies and spice cider will be served.

Historical Gift Suggestions

The Washtenaw County Historical Society has a few. The throws are $50 each and are available at the Museum on Main Street and from other historical society groups in Washtenaw County. Insert image of throw

These throws are woven in North Carolina of 100% cotton and are 60 inches by 50 inches. There are 19 images of buildings of groups that are members of the Washtenaw County Consortium. Mailing by US Priority Mail is available for $8.00 each. For additional information: www.washtenawhistory.org and click on GiftShop or call 734 / 662-9092.

Our Museum Shop has many interesting items available for purchase:

Post cards
tiny hand-made bells
Note cards
ornaments

A variety of books, some of which are:

ANN ARBOR IN THE 19TH CENTURY. by Grace Shackman A pictorial history of Ann Arbor. 128 pp. $20

ANN ARBOR IN THE 20TH CENTURY. by Grace Shackman A pictorial history of Ann Arbor. 128 pp. $20

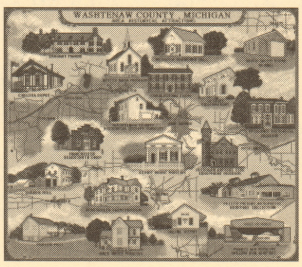
BIRDSEYE MAP OF ANN ARBOR, MI-1880. 24 by 30 in. Rolled & in tube. $10

HISTORIC BUILDINGS: Ann Arbor, MI. by Marjorie Reade & Susan Wineberg. 232 pp. $15

LOST ANN ARBOR: by Susan Wineberg. Buildings that have been demolished. 128 pp. $20

SALINE: A Pictorial history. By Susan Kosky. 128 pp $20

THE INDIANS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI. 1927 by W. B. Hinsdale. 68 pp. $7



MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 96

You are invited to view the new exhibit:
THE SEWING ARTS
Oct. 26, 2005 – Jan. 18, 2006
Wed., Sat., & Sun.: Noon – 4 PM
& by appointment / Groups welcomed

SUNDAY • 2 PM
OCTOBER 16, 2005
"THE TROLLIES OF ANN ARBOR"
SPEAKER • H. MARK HILDEBRANDT
GLACIER HILLS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY • HANSON ROOM
1200 EARHART ROAD
ANN ARBOR, MI
INFORMATION • 734.662.9092

NANCY KROHN
905 ROBIN RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48103-3008

4B1034300B-03 C030

Program Schedule 2005-2006

Sunday, October 16 • 2 pm
THE TROLLIES OF ANN ARBOR
Speaker: *H. Mark Hildebrandt*
Location: Glacier Hills Retirement Community, AA

Sunday, Nov. 20 • 2 pm
EARHART MANOR
Speaker: *David Kennedy*
Location: Earhart Manor, 4090 Geddes Rd, AA

Sunday, February 19, 2006 • 2 pm
COBBLESTONE STRUCTURES
Speaker: *Grace Shackman & Patricia Majher*
Location: Cobblestone Farm Barn, 2781 Packard

Sunday, March 19 • 2 pm
NAME ORIGINS of LOCAL STREETS/ROADS
Speaker: *Jeff Mortimer*
Location: University Commons, 817 Asa Gray, AA

Sunday, April 23 • 2 pm
COMBINED MEETING of GSWC & WCHS
Topics of interest
Location: Education Bldg, SJMH, Parking Lot 'P'

May 2006
WCHS ANNUAL MEETING
Potluck supper & election of officers • Date & location to be determined

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Washtenaw County Historical Society is to foster interest in and to elucidate the history of Washtenaw County from the time of the original inhabitants to the present. Its mission shall be to carry out the mandate as stated through the preservation and presentation of artifacts and information by exhibit, assembly, and publication. And to teach, especially our youth, the facts, value and the uses of Washtenaw County history through exhibits in museums and classrooms, classes, tours to historical places, and other educational activities.